

From: Jack Sperry
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 12:26am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

15706 SE 173rd Street

Renton, WA 98058-9106

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to address the recent settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I am more than happy with this agreement and think it should stand. Any further litigation will be counter-productive and hamper any chance of revitalizing our economy. I did not support the initial lawsuit. There was no consumer abuse. I use Microsoft products because they are quality products at a reasonable price. What's the problem? If there were other products out there of equal quality and equal price, I would use those, but there aren't. Microsoft's competitors have had the same chances as Microsoft. They just have not been able to perform as well. Hence, they run to the government for a leg up.

I am also concerned with the intervention of government in what is supposedly our free market system. Government is taking the intellectual property of a company, and forcing same to disburse it among its competitors. Why should anyone bother to invent something any more if they know it will be subject to delineation among their competitors if they are "too successful"? Would you?

Microsoft has agreed to this principle in that it has agreed to disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products; Microsoft has also agreed to help

companies write software that networks well with their own. Enough is enough.

I urge you to give your support to this agreement and allow Microsoft, and this country, to get back to business.

Sincerely,

Jack C. Sperry